

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 2014

Little Rock, Arkansas

J.C. Spilman, Editor

Volume 5, No. 2

December 1963

Serial No. 10

"The copper coinages of that critical period in American history, the first decade after the Revolution, still present unexhausted fields for fruitful research."

from the Preface ---

JAMES JARVIS AND THE FUGIO COPPERS
by Damon G. Douglas

Many years ago Mr. Damon G. Douglas commenced work on a comprehensive study into the history of the Fugio Cents of 1787 and their contractor James Jarvis. It has been generally known for quite some time that the Douglas manuscript was essentially complete; however, various factors have delayed final editing and publication.

For quite sometime this manuscript has been held in an unofficial capacity by Mr. Sawyer McA. Mosser, Executive Director of The American Numismatic Society, for the personal convenience of the author. As the document was not officially in the custody of ANS, it could not be released to interested individuals or to the public. Recently, however, Mr. Douglas agreed to release his work to the ANS library where it is now available on microfilm for all to study.

This magnificent study, JAMES JARVIS AND THE FUGIO COPPERS, traces the history of Jarvis from the day of his baptism to the probate of his last will and testament. Wonderfully documented data fills a vast gap in the history of the first American cent and opens numerous avenues for future investigation. Appropriately dedicated to Sylvester S. Crosby and Fred C. C. Boyd, this painstaking and dedicated research into a fascinating episode of early American history and numismatics is unlikely soon to be surpassed.

We firmly believe this document represents a substantial contribution to our nation's historians as well as to the science of numismatics; it could serve to stimulate an interest in early American numismatics that has lain dormant for almost three generations.

JCS

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THE FRENCH COLONIES SOUS of 1767

(part four)

Robert A. Vlack

A measurable amount of time has elapsed since the third article of this series has appeared in The Colonial Newsletter, however, now that the Newsletter shall once again flourish, so shall this series.

This being the fourth article of the series I shall continue as before, listing these varieties in numerical sequence. The last variety mentioned in the April-June 1962 issue was the 7-G, mentioned only because we have the same obverse with a different reverse to be described below. In spite of the long break between publications, only one new variety has been discovered since that time which brings hope to the fact that perhaps most varieties have now been uncovered. Time will tell.

Again as I mentioned in previous articles, if better specimens than those illustrated are known, I would appreciate seeing them and possibly photographing them for a future composite works.

Obverse 7 - Previously described.

Reverse N - Very similar to Reverse G. In SIT, I leans very slightly left. NOMEN normal. In DOMINI, MI connected at the base. In BENEDICTUM, D is low, I high, T leans strongly right and is parallel with U. No cross serifs appear on top of U. Leaf appears to end under the center of I. Top of crown closer to S. Right side of crown not connected to the center upright. Specimen observed showed a double striking of the reverse only.

Obverse 8 - In COLONIES, 1st O slightly low, L leans slightly right, S is low. In FRANCOISES, R and A slightly high, N and C lean left, C is closer to O, 1st S is low, 2nd S leans right. In L.XV, L leans slightly left with the period midway. V slightly lower than X.

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Reverse H - In SIT, T slightly high. In NOMEN, O closer to N, NO recut, OM is slightly high and M leans right, E slightly high. In DOMINI, the M and I's lean left, and the N is slightly low and leans right. The N and I are parallel with the top of I higher than N. In BENEDICTUM, 1st E is low and leans slightly left, D is large. I leans left and slightly closer to C, U is slightly high and closer to T. The C and T are connected on top. Date is closely spaced with top level higher than top level of SIT. 6 is recut. Leaf ends under left upright of 1. Top of crown is much closer to S. Break through 2nd N of NOMEN to wreath, another at top right of lower fleur in center of wreath.

Obverse 9 - In COLONIES, N is high and leans left. IES is on a different plane than COLON. S leans slightly right. A break develops through left upright of N to rim. In FRANCOISES R slightly high and leans right, N is high and closer to C, E is high and closer to first S. Base of E may be missing leaving an F appearance. In L.XV, the L is on a higher plane than XV and leans slightly left. The period is high and appears about midway. The XV is spaced further apart than usual and slopes down to the left.

Reverse I - In SIT, I leans left, T slightly low. In NOMEN, M leans right, E slightly high and also leans slightly right. In DOMINI, D leans slightly left, the M and I are connected at the base. 2nd I leans left. In BENEDICTUM, D and C are slightly low, U is closer to T, and M leans right. Right side of crown may not be connected to center upright. Leaf ends about under the center of the 1.



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LETTERS

-- from Edward R. Barnsley - NEW 1787 CONNECTICUT VARIETY

The November 1961 issue of "Numismatic Journal" reported the discovery of a 1787 Connecticut copper attributed as 8-BB, and the tables and texts of numerous Miller-Ryders were accordingly corrected to record this new die combination. It now appears that they need re-correction.

The writer recently had the opportunity to acquire this unique piece, and was surprised to find that the reverse die was not BB at all, but rather a¹. Both of these two dies are remarkably similar to each other, and they could easily be confused at first glance.

There are, nevertheless, minor differences which are readily enough discernable upon close examination. For example, the sash ends in the two designs are quite different in their terminations; and the dexter foot in a¹ is very much larger than in BB. The two legends, however, are practically identical, - the most noticeable difference being the positioning of the letter L. In BB the L is parallel to the T and well below it. In a¹ the bottom stroke of L is tilted so much that a projection of it to the left would bisect the down stroke of T.

It should also be noted that the legend of BB, instead of ending with a period as called for by Miller, actually ends with a colon, exactly as a¹ does. The lower dots of the said colons are placed entirely on the sinister mantling of the shield, - hence they are not distinguishable on worn specimens.

Both reverse dies a¹ and BB are illustrated in the Miller plates, and there is not the slightest doubt that the well preserved piece in question, discovered at the Washington D.C. convention in 1961, and subsequently reported as 8-BB, should have been attributed 8-a¹.

-- from Richard Picker - PHILIP PARRY PRICE MIDDLETON

The party who sent me the following item tells me that she is the 'genealogist of the Middleton family in the South' and gives her permission to publish it in CN. Her name is Beth Bland Engel (Mrs. Marvin F.). She is firmly convinced that this is the same P.P.P. Myddelton who issued the Myddelton(Kentucky) Token of 1796 as is listed on page 47 of the Guide Book.

August 24, 1796 --- Philip Parry Price Middleton, proprietor of a large tract of land on the Ohio, has been lately convicted in London, of enticing artificers to emigrate to the United States, and sentenced to pay a fine of 500 pounds sterling, and to be confined in the prison of Newgate for one year. Mr. Middleton has been imprisoned previously upwards of six months -- he had engaged labourers and cultivators to the number of 1200, the greater part of whom have since arrived in several parts of the United States. --- Col. Mus. & Sav. Adv. 1796 9/13, p.3, c.3

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AND MORE LETTERS

-- from Walter Breen - COLONIAL OVERSTRIKES

When my New Jersey ms returns I can give you a nearly complete rundown on known kinds of overstrikes bearing the NOVA CAESAREA legend. In the meantime let me give you what I can by memory for all Colonial series:

Oak Tree Sixpence. Noe 15 (Crosby 5-A), the unique Bushnell-Parmelee-Mills-Garrett coin, now in JHU, is overstruck on an old shilling. I have not seen the coin but worked from photographs. Genuineness doubted.

Noe 21 (C.1c-D) -- one known overstruck on a clipped Oak Tree shilling of dies of Noe 14. This was formerly in possession of C.E. Bullowa.

The alleged overstrike claimed for Noe 18 by Noe has proved to be merely another instance of clashed dies.

Vermont. Ryder 14: one seen overstruck on Nova Constellatio. Ryder 12: often overstruck on Nova Constellatios. R # 18: sometimes overstruck on British or Irish halfpence. R # 35, same reverse -- always overstruck on Irish Halfpence. R # 33, unique (H.H.Kurth collection) overstruck on ctft halfpenny of Geo.III. R # 28, usually overstruck on Irish halfpence

Connecticuts - 1788. M. 16³-N exists overstruck on Mass. cents. One of these had for undertype a 1-B of 1787; New Netherlands 51st sale, # 131, later Q. David Bowers. --- 1788. 3¹-B¹ all seen ex-¹ Eliaspberg's are overstruck on Nova Constellatios. 3²-B², 4¹-B¹, 4²-R, 5-B², 10-C and possibly others in this group usually overstruck on Novas as well.

New Jersey Rahway mint: I have seen a 46-e overstruck on a brockage of reverse e. Boyd coll.

N.J. Machin's Mills mint: 56-n, 57-n, 58-n. These come overstruck on almost everything in the book: tiny Spanish maravedies, French Sous, "George Clinton" coppers (unique F.C.C.Boyd), Vermonts, Connecticuts, halfpence, etc.

N.J. Elizabethtown mint: 17-J, 17-K late state, 17-b; 38-b, and the Plaited Mane group -- 40-b, 35-J, 35-W, 34-V, 34-J, 70-x, 71-y, 72-z, 73-aa. These come overstruck on almost everything in the book, too. First four varieties named usually are on halfpence or Connecticuts; the Plaited Manes are likely to occur on just about anything, one of the more strange ones being (if memory serves) 34-V on 35-J !

N.J. contemporaneous counterfeits: Maris "81" (?), "83" - ill. in Guttag reprint -- and "84" (Boyd coll., 2 known) on halfpence.

Massachusetts 1776 pattern cent, pictured in ANS 1914, ex Howland Wood: obv. nude Indian st'g left, shooting arrow. PROVINCE OF MASSA: Rev. St'g figure on globe, DEFENSOR LIBERTATIS 1776. Overstruck on 1747 Irish halfpenny.

Immunis Columbia, 1787. MHS has a specimen overstruck on a Jersey copper. Adams notebooks (now ANS) mention one with edge ornamented [] which suggests overstriking on some foreign coin; edge devices were a luxury not encountered on Atlee coins.

RESEARCH FORUM

We continue in this issue the listing of research questions submitted by our readers. Scattered replys and comments have been received regarding the initial items published in the August 1963 issue; however, a great many more are required to make the Research Forum a worthwhile feature.

Our current list of requests is the following:

- RF-7 Has anyone actually seen a Rhode Island 1778-79 piece with "vlugtende" below the ship ?
- RF-8 And how about the ornamented edge 1787 IMMUNIS - has anyone seen this piece ? Are photographs or first hand descriptions available for study ?
- RF-9 What are the initials T.W.I. and E.S. that appear on the reverse of the Washington Military Bust; to whom do they belong and what verification is there to back this up ?
- RF-10 Coin World of March 29, 1963 on page 43 notes in an article by Russell Rulau, that Woodward stated that Mott Tokens dated 1789 were restruck on both thick and thin planchets. Is this report correct; if so, how are they told apart ?
- RF-11 A 1792 Peter Getz half dollar in silver, overstruck on a French écu, brought \$ 57 in the Bogert Sale (Augustus B. Sage, Feb. 1859). Where is it now ?
- RF-12 Is it possible to obtain for examination the Mark Newby halfpenny with large GREX cut over small GREX ? A photograph would be helpful if the owner is unwilling to loan the coin itself.

A Table of Varieties and Die Combinations
of
The Fugio Cents of 1787

A considerable number of new Fugio varieties and die combinations have been discovered during the past few years and may be unknown to some collectors. The following table presents a compilation of the presently known varieties and combinations of the regular issue. Those marked with an asterisk are believed to be unique. The numbering system is that of E. P. Newman.

1-B	10-G	16-H
1-L	10-T	16-N
1-CC		
1-Z		
	11-A	17-I
	11-B	17-S
2-C	11-X	17-WW *
3-D	12-M	18-H
	12-S	18-U
	12-U	18-X
4-E	12-X	
	12-Z	
	12-KK	19-M
5-F		19-Z
		19-SS
6-W	13-N	
	13-R	
	13-X	20-R
	13-KK *	20-X
7-T		
8-B	14-H *	21-I
8-X	14-O	
		22-M
9-P	15-H	
9-Q	15-K	
9-S	15-V	23-ZZ *
9-T	15-Y	

Note: Combinations 1-Q and 9-L are believed nonexistent and are not listed above.